

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the Office Action dated February 4, 2005, claims 1, 12, 13, and 23 have been amended and claims 3, 4, 22, 25, and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 5-21, 23, 24, and 27-33 remain in the application. Entry of these amendments, and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-7, 12-13, 16-18, 23-24, and 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeSimone et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,787,470 (DeSimone) in view of DeKoning et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,073,218 (DeKoning). On page 9 of the Office Action, claims 8, 19, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeSimone in view of DeKoning as applied to claims 1, 12, and 23 above, and further in view of Tucker, U.S. Patent No. 6,178,519 B1 (Tucker).

On page 13 of the Office Action, claims 3, 4, 11, 14-15, 22, 25-26, and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected based claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in correct and independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended the independent claims to incorporate allowable subject matter. In this regard, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3; independent claim 12 and been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 22; and independent claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 26.

Thus, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 12, and 23 are allowable over DeSimone, DeKoning and Tucker. Further, dependent claims 2, 5-11, 13-21, 24, and 27-33 are submitted to be allowable over DeSimone, DeKoning and Tucker in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 12, and 23, respectively, and because they contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 2, 5-11, 13-21, 24, and 27-33 recite additional novel elements not shown by DeSimone, DeKoning and Tucker.

In addition, pursuant to the recommendation of the Office Action on page 14, Applicants have amended the summary of invention and abstract to bring them into harmony with the allowed

claims. Applicants also submit that the original title continues to describe the invention as claimed and that no amendments to the title are necessary at this time.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their attorneys,

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REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT

A method, apparatus, and article of manufacture provide the ability to maintain cache in a clustered environment. The cache is maintained in both a primary and secondary node. When data is requested, a symbolic list in a cache directory is examined to determine which node's cache contains the requested data. If the symbolic list indicates data is not currently in cache of any node, any node may be used as the secondary node. However, if an original primary node maintains the data in cache, the original primary node is selected as the secondary node. Once a new write I/O operation is performed, the symbolic list is updated to provide. To install a new node, after applying for cluster admission, symbolic information and a modified track list is requested. The modified track list is merged with new symbolic entries and the new node then broadcasts its availability to the cluster.